GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2005 – Schedule VI - Revision of rate of tax on Petrol and Diesel Oils – Reverting to previous tax regime prevailing between 2015 to 2018 - Notification – Orders - Issued.

REVENUE (COMMERCIAL TAXES-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 204 Dated: 20-07-2020

Read the following:-

1. Act No.23 of 2020.
2. The Disaster Management Act, 2005.
3. MHA, GoI Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A), dated 24.3.2020.
4. MHA, Goi Order No.40-3/2020-DM-1(A) Dt.17-05-2020.
5. G.O.Rt.No.274, Health Medical & Family Welfare (B2) Department, dated: 17-05-2020.
6. MHA, GOI Order No.40-3/2020-DM-1(A) dt:29.06.2020
7. G.O.Rt.No.317, Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department dated:02.07.2020.

***

ORDER:

Recognizing the extreme danger to Public Health and Safety arising out of the COVID-19 situation, Government of India declared nationwide lockdown on 25th March, 2020 vide reference 3rd cited. Barring essential services, all commercial/ nonessential services were shut down.

Furthermore, the Government of Andhra Pradesh undertook several measures for the people who were in distress due to the lockdown, which are as follows:

1. On one hand ran widely publicized media campaigns to raise awareness about Corona, its symptoms, and prevention while on the other planned, mobilized and deployed Corona response teams, ramped up health infrastructure, measures and governing systems to manage the pandemic situation efficiently. This government's people - centric initiative of decentralization of governance , the village / ward volunteers and secretariat system proved to be a boon during pandemic, with an army of around 4 lakh foot soldiers the government could conduct 5 rounds of house to house survey which immensely helped in contact tracing and tracking
2. Acted early in dealing with home bound population to the state. Identified symptomatic patients for quarantine thus restricting Corona transmission through people arriving from other States and/or Countries.
3. As of July 17, the state is conducting 23,605 COVID tests per 1 million; collected 12,60,512 samples and is treating 19,814 patients in various hospitals.

4. While the percentage of positive cases in the country is 7.68, our state has managed to keep it at 3.22; similarly, while the death rate is at 2.55 per cent in the country, we managed to keep it at 1.31 per cent.
5. Deployed 52 Sanjeevani buses (mobile diagnostic lab/testing units); accelerated setting up of viral testing labs from zero to 78 to ramp up COVID-19 testing within the state.
6. Identified 19 public and private hospitals as Category-1: Dedicated COVID Hospitals; 67 hospitals as Category-2: Dedicated COVID Health Centres; 275 hospitals as Category-3: COVID Care Centres to ensure optimal utilisation of resources and to provide maximum care to COVID- 19 patients in AP.
7. Earmarked Rs. 500 per person per day for providing nutritious meals in the state-run quarantine centres along with the best available medical care.
8. Made a significant move to cover COVID-19 treatment in Aarogyasri- AP being the first state to do so-to help out the poor; extended a financial assistance of Rs 2,000 to each person while leaving the quarantine centres.
9. Provided a Rs 15,000-aid to the family members to conduct last rites of COVID-19 deceased.
10. In an altruistic move, AP government ran free transport and food services to help migrant workers reach their destinations safely from the places they were stranded at or from wherever they found the bus while walking.
11. Ensured safe return of 4500 fishermen and migrant workers hailing from Vijayanagaram, Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam who were stranded in Gujarat coastline. Amid nationwide lockdown, the State launched transport facilities especially for the stranded. From Veraval, the bus service picked up the stranded, offered essential items during the transit, brought them back to AP safely. After quarantine, the state provided each person, a financial aid of Rs. 2,000.
12. Initiated recruitment of 9,712 medical staff including doctors, nurses and paramedics to ensure availability of ample medical staff to deal with the increasing number of corona cases. Of these positions, 60 per cent were newly created and 40 per cent were existing vacancies.
13. While taking all necessary steps to make AP a Corona-Free State, our government continued offering uninterrupted support to the common man via multiple welfare schemes.
14. Allotted a budget of Rs. 2800 crore to supply ration – thrice a month, and a cash relief of Rs. 1000 to help poor (people listed in the Public Distribution System) tide over the Corona crisis.
15. Launched zero-interest loan scheme to extended exclusive financial benefits to women. Rs 1,400 crore were credited to the bank accounts of 8.78 lakh Self Help Groups to support over 91 lakh women across the state during Corona crisis.
16. Mobilized over 40,000 women from self-help groups across Andhra Pradesh to manufacture 16 Crore protective facial masks for preventing Corona spread. The state government was successful in offering employment with a

daily earning of Rs. 500 to 600 to these women at a time when the families were suffering from lack of work and uncertainty of finances due to the prolonged COVID-19 lockdown.

17. Released Rs. 4000 Crore fund on April 28, 2020 for Jagananna Vidya Deevena to benefit 12 lakh poor students pursuing higher education. This scheme aims at making higher education accessible to the poor and needy and offers the students a total fee reimbursement.
18. Rolled out Dr. YSR Telemedicine Services on 13 April 2020 to attend to COVID-19 cases in remote areas. This service is accessible on toll free number 14410 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and is taken as one of the measures to control the spread of coronavirus in the state.
19. Provided a financial assistance of Rs 10,000, to fishermen through YSR Matsyakara Bharosa on 6 May 2020. Nearly one lakh fishermen families who were struggling for livelihood during the Corona pandemic benefited from the Rs.100 crore fund allotted for this welfare scheme.
20. Flagged off a huge fleet of 1088 new mobile medical units aimed at enhancing the ambulance services in a single day. These ambulances are equipped to be state-of-the-art mobile clinics offering emergency medical care to patients.
21. Continued offering post-operative sustenance aid of Rs. 225 per day (Rs. 5000 per month) for the prescribed period of recovery through YSR Arogyasri Asara scheme to the poor patients.
22. Disbursed the first instalment of financial assistance of Rs 2,800 crores under “Rythu Bharosa” on 15 May 2020 despite the financial constraints post COVID-19.
23. Launched 10,641 Rythu Bharosa Kendras on 31 May 2020, to ensure that farmers are well cared for. Prioritizing the farmer welfare, these Rythu Bharosa Kendras will work in coordination with village secretariats to evolve as knowledge hubs – virtually bringing together experts, scientists and farmers to make farming a more profitable enterprise.
24. Released Rs 10,000 financial aid to 2.62 lakh auto-taxi drivers under the YSR Vahana Mitra scheme on 4 June, 2020. A total budget of Rs.262.49 crore was allotted to lend a helping hand to the auto-taxi drivers.
25. Launched 'Jagananna Chedodu' to lend a helping hand to the tailors, barbers and washermen. Financial aid of Rs 10,000 was deposited in unencumbered bank accounts 2.47 lakh beneficiaries. A total budget of Rs 247.04 crores was allotted to support them.
26. Launched a mega ReSTART package of Rs 1,168 to revive the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from the coronavirus-induced economic crisis. Among other incentives, our government will also release the Rs. 827.5 crore to clear off the pending payments from the previous regime. This package is aimed to secure 10 lakh jobs for people working in one lakh MSMEs.

27. Waived off electricity charges of Rs. 187.80 crores to boost MSMEs in the state to reopen during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. State decided to provide working capital loans to MSMEs at lower interest rates. A fund to the tune of Rs 200 crore was created to lend loans between Rs 2-10 lakh.
28. Released Rs 680 crores to network hospitals, kept pending by previous Government. Release d Rs 1915 crores to network hospitals pertaining to 2019-20.

While the efforts of the State Government to tackle COVID-19 pandemic and restart economy were widely appreciated by one and all, both nationally and internationally, the States Own Resources (SOR) have totally dried up because of reduction in State revenues on account of lockdown. In the month of April, 2020 State's own Revenues realized was only 1,323 Cr. against 4,480 Cr in April, 2019 which is 29.5% of the total expected revenue. Similar trends were also observed for May & June, 2020.

Several states are facing similar situation and to offset the loss of revenue, they have made upward revision of taxes on petrol and diesel in the months of April and May, 2020 pushing up their prices:

Name of the State	Name of the Commodity	Increase in price (Rs. Per litre)
New Delhi	Petrol	1.67
	Diesel	7.10
Karnataka	Petrol	1.60
	Diesel	1.59
Uttar Pradesh	Petrol	2.00
	Diesel	1.00
Rajasthan	Petrol	0.97
	Diesel	0.40
West Bengal	Petrol	1.00
	Diesel	1.01

Under these circumstances and in order to overcome the financial crisis, the Government after due consideration, has decided to revert to the earlier tax regime which was prevailing between 2015 to 2018 while ensuring that the overall rates do not exceed the rates prevailing between 2015 and 2018. The revised rates for petrol and diesel are “31% + Rs.4/- per litre” and “22.25% + Rs.4/- per litre” respectively.

Accordingly, the following notification shall be published in an Extra Ordinary issue of the Andhra Pradesh Gazette, Dated:20-07-2020.

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 79 of the Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2005 (Andhra Pradesh Act No.5 of 2005) the Government of Andhra Pradesh hereby makes the following amendments to Schedule-VI of the said Act with effect from 21-07-2020.

AMENDMENTS

In the Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2005, in Schedule-VI, in the table,

i. in column No.(4), "rate of tax", against item No.2 "Petrol", for the expression "31% + Rs.2.76/- per litre", the expression"31% + Rs.4/- per litre", shall be substituted.

ii. in column No.(4) "rate of tax", against item No.5,"All kinds of Diesel Oils including C-9", for the expression "22.25% + Rs.3.07/- per litre, the expression "22.25% + Rs.4/- per litre", shall be substituted.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Dr. RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner of Printing, Stationery and Stores Purchase (Publication Wing), A.P., Vijayawada ... for publication of the Notification (he is requested to supply20 copies of the notification to this Department and 200 copies to the Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada)
The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
Copy to:
The Secretary, VAT Appellate Tribunal, Visakhapatnam.
The State Representative before the VAT Appellate Tribunal, Visakhapatnam.
The Director General, General Administration (Vigilance & Enforcement) Department, 2nd floor, Pundit Nehru Bus Station Complex, Vijayawada.
The P.S. to Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
The P.S. to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister (Excise & Commercial Taxes).
The P.S.to the Spl.C.S (CT, Excise and Regn.,& Stamps).
Sc/Sf

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER